Amendments to the Specification

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 1, line 1 with the following amended paragraph:

This application is a continuation of U.S. Serial No. 09/215,450, filed December 17, 1998, which claims the benefit of ~~co-pending~~ provisional ~~applications~~ application Serial No. 60/070,112 filed Dec. 31, 1997, ~~and Ser. No. _____ filed Nov. 30, 1998. Both provisional applications are~~ both of which are incorporated herein by reference.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 5, line 29 with the following amended paragraph:

Figure 2. Nucleotide sequence and deduced amino acid sequence of CSP56 (SEQ ID NOS:18 and 19, respectively). FIG. 2A. The 518 amino acid long sequence is shown in single-letter code below the nucleotide sequence of 1855 base pairs. The active site residue (D) and flanking amino acid residues characteristic of aspartyl proteases are underlined. The putative propeptide is boxed. The putative signal peptide at the N-terminus and the transmembrane domain at the C-terminus are underlined. FIG. 2B. Expressed sequence tags (SEQ ID NO:27) extending the nucleotide sequence of CSP56 to 2606 base pairs in length. FIG. 2C. Schematic representation of CSP56. SS, signal sequence; Pro, propeptide; TM transmembrane domain. The asterisks indicate the active sites.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 6, line 8 with the following amended paragraph:

Figure 3. Multiple amino acid sequence alignment of CSP56 (SEQ ID NO:19) with other members of the pepsin family of aspartyl proteases. Identical amino acid residues are indicated by black boxes. The aspartyl protease active residues (D-S/T-G) are indicated by a bar on top. The cysteine residues characteristic for aspartyl protease in members of the pepsin family are indicted by asterisks. The putative membrane attachment domain is underlined. Gaps are indicated by dots. Cat-E, cathepsin E (SEQ ID NO:22); Pep-A, pepsinogen [[E]] A (SEQ ID NO:23); Pep-C, pepsinogen C (SEQ ID NO:24); Cat-D, cathepsin D (SEQ ID NO:25); and Renin (SEQ ID NO:26).